

Dyscalculia Fact Sheet

Dyscalculia is...

- ✓ A learning issue that makes it hard to understand concepts related to numbers and do tasks like add and subtract.
- ✓ A common condition. Some experts say dyscalculia is just as common as dyslexia.
- ✓ A common co-occurrence. Dyscalculia can exist on its own but is often found in kids with issues like dyslexia and ADHD.

Dycalculia is not...

- A sign of low intelligence. You can be very smart and have dyscalculia.
- The same thing as math anxiety. But it often co-occurs with this emotional issue, which involves self-doubt and fear of failure.
- A lack of effort. Kids with dyscalculia need different kinds of interventions to make progress—not more of the same instruction.

Telling time

Working with money, like making change

Counting

Remembering basic math facts, like 2 + 4 = 6

Kids with dyscalculia may have trouble with...

Identifying symbols like + and – and using them correctly

Understanding words related to math, like "greater than"

Calculating on paper or in their head

Telling left from right

Understanding how numbers are related to each other

Ways to help kids with dyscalculia



Multisensory structured math instruction engages kids through sight, hearing, movement and touch.



Accommodations, like taking untimed tests or using blocks or other objects to help solve a math problem, can help kids show what they know.



Assistive technology tools, like calculators and digital graph paper, can help level the playing field for kids who struggle with math.

Success stories



Mary Tyler Moore
Award-winning actress



Kit Hughes
Tech entrepreneur and
CEO of Look Listen



Cher Singer and actress (who also has dyslexia)

